

### The Mountain Top

At great expense an astronomical observatory has been built on the top of Mount Blanco, Switzerland, an elevation of 16,000 feet. At this great altitude the atmosphere is free from the conditions prevailing lower down which produce errors in astronomical observations. What a striking illustration of the science of spiritual perception. While we live close to this world, in its turmoil we are unable to hear the heavenly voices; in its mists and vapors we are unable to see the celestial beatitudes; in its gross affections we are unable to apprehend the divine love; in its foolish ambition we drown all heavenly aspirations. It is only when we rise above the world into the higher and purer atmosphere which floats next to the sky that we can perceive with clear vision the things heavenly. It may cost much labor, and much sacrifice of what the world holds dear to establish our spiritual observatory upon the tops of high mountains, but how great the reward; how glorious the vision; how inspiring the prospect. It was upon the mountain top that Moses saw God, that he beheld his glory, that he received his law. It was upon the top of another mountain that he stepped off this world into the world beyond. It was upon the top of another that Jesus was transfigured as the sun, and in this resplendent guise talked with that same Moses in glory. Go up to the mountain tops, ye heirs of glory, and if ye must needs come down again into this beclouded world, bring with you, like Moses, and like Christ, some of the brightness of that uplifting, that transfiguration, shining from your faces and lighting the darkness around you.

### Brief Notes

For a day the thousand activities of civilization were snow-bound, an accident which happens much oftener to the activities of a church when it gets cold.

A good opinion of religion without, however, accepting it, will not tend to a good opinion of your chances in the day of judgment.

Wanted: Twenty reasons why a Christian should be discouraged. If you haven't the twenty, send us at least one.

Wanted: A few conclusive reasons why a Christian should be stingy.

Wanted: A down grade road to heaven. The discoverer of this popular salvation route can get anything he asks.

The sudden death of Felix Faure, late president of France, removes from the world a conspicuous political figure, and brings to unhappy France a distinct access of peril. The political confusion in that country is only equaled by its moral confusion.

A German scientist has invented a brilliant electric lamp which needs no vacuum. A device to get more spiritual light with less vacuum would be a good thing for some pulpits.

A man in Patterson, N. J., was found frozen to death on the steps of his home. How many there are whose souls perish almost upon the very thresh-

hold of the heavenly home. The door opens within reach of all, but many neglect or refuse to enter, until death comes and cuts off the opportunity.

Peter Matthews, a hermit living in West Orange, New Jersey, was frozen to death. From motives of economy he had no fire in his hut. What insensate folly, and yet in spiritual matters men sell their souls for less than the price which the miser put upon his life.

A magistrate in one of our large cities recently announced his belief in suicide, and his intention to adopt it when he is no longer of any use to himself or any one else. If cessation of usefulness justifies suicide, he might better not have lived to utter a sentiment so revolting and wicked.

The Board of Health in a certain city has ordered that all telephones shall be disinfected daily to prevent the transmission of contagious diseases. There may be physical danger from this source, but it is not to be compared to the moral infection from a hundred sources, involving a far greater danger, particularly to the young. Moral disinfection is the business of the church, of pastors and all Christians. Let them attend to this great duty with intelligence and diligence.

February 12 was the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, and the great Emancipator received in many places that homage which a grateful nation owes to one of her greatest and best sons. His name will go down into history as a benefactor of mankind, a man raised up by Providence to stand in the breach of a great crisis, a modern Moses, ordained to lead a nation out of bondage, and give to mankind a new version of the law of liberty.

It is said that the recent arctic wave greatly increased the business of the saloons. These institutions fatten on calamities, but also show an adaptability to all circumstances which can be compared to nothing so aptly as the versatility of Satan himself.

Professor Adam Thompson attempts to demonstrate that Adam and Eve were black. It looks like malice to give their complexion the unpopular color of their reputation. The latter, however, is the more important consideration, and when that is bad, little else can be added to make matters worse.

A wealthy New Yorker stayed in jail six months to vacate what he regarded as an unjust judgment for a considerable sum of money. We are told of another judgment in which imprisonment, instead of vacating the sentence, will continue until the uttermost farthing is paid. Theologians differ as to the duration of this imprisonment, but the wisest course is to take no chances in the matter, but to "agree with thine adversary whilst thou art in the way with him."

The Paris Exposition is to have a beauty show, which of course hasn't the remotest reference to beauty of character. The blind old world thinks more of external than of spiritual beauty. Shams are always at a premium in some society.

Love induces Archduke John of Austria to renounce, for the sake of the loved one who is of lesser rank, the titles and prerogatives of his royal birth. Thus Christ, for love of the church, his bride, renounced for a time his divine prerogative, but returned to it again that he might lift us into the divine nature and the divine glory.

Behind a drunkard's murderous attack upon his helpless wife and little children is the saloon which supplied the liquor; behind the saloon is the law which licensed it; behind the law stand the law-makers, and behind these is the voter. Where does the fearful responsibility lodge?

Of the entire human race it is estimated that 500,000,000 are well clothed,—that is, they wear garments of some kind; 250,000,000 habitually go naked, and 700,000,000 only cover parts of their bodies; 500,000,000 live in houses, 7000,000,000 in huts and caves, and 250,000,000 have virtually no shelter at all. It would be still more interesting to know how many of these vast populations are garmented in

Christ's robe of righteousness, and how many are sheltered, or will find shelter and home in the "house not made with hands." It is a still more interesting question, whether or not you and I are thus provided.

Over one hundred miles of telegraph wires run thro the sewers of Paris, which is only one of many more conspicuous illustrations that intelligence and uncleanness are not as incompatible as we could wish them to be. Virtue is not always the companion of culture.

In the African kingdom of Dahomey there is a temple of serpents, where the priests keep and feed over 1000 reptiles of all sizes and shapes. To the enlightened mind how hideous and loathsome this spectacle must be; but we are told that the unregenerate heart is the den of every unclean beast, and how hideous a spectacle must this be to the pure eyes of God and his angels.

A cherry tree in Linden, Ind., distinguished itself by blooming twice in a single season, illustrating in a way that rare specimen of Christian character which blooms in perennial beauty, in season and out of season, and also like the tree of life is always bearing fruit. How quickly blessed the world would be if all professing Christians answered to this description.

A prisoner recently asked for lace curtains and other luxuries with which to ornament his cell and make it comfortable and cosy. His taste under the circumstances provokes amusement, but it is not unlike a very general disposition among men, particularly the wealthy, to assemble all possible luxuries in these temporary tenements, as if they expected to stay here forever. The effort seems to be to increase their content with the world, rather than to seek a better and more enduring home.

A heavy coating of ice sank one of the largest ocean liners at her pier in New York. Many a man who otherwise might have made a prosperous voyage thro life has been sunk beneath defeats and disasters induced by his effort to carry a useless cargo of one kind or another, covetousness, or ambition, or pleasure. Let us lay aside every weight, every unnecessary incumbrance, that we may make a successful voyage, and reach the desired haven.

The history of the celebrated Koochinoor diamond, as well as its big South African fellow, is a history of bloody wars and brutal murders. Covetousness, jealousy, hate, treachery and every vile and abominable passion can be found in the records of these celebrated gems. By what different methods we can gain the "pearl of great price." Not by crime, but by holiness and faith, by virtue and patience; nevertheless how few there are who value this inestimable treasure, or make any earnest effort to possess it.

### DIRECTORY

#### Secretary's Address

Those having occasion to write to brother J. C. Cassel, will address him at 915 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

#### Brethren Mission

Chicago.—193 Oakley Ave. Rev. J. O. Talley, pastor, residence 517 Warren Ave. Sadie Gibbons, assistant pastor, 517 Warren Ave. Preaching services each Sabbath, 11 A. M., and 8 P. M.

#### How to Know Our Wild Flowers

Beginning with the March number *The Ladies' Home Journal* will publish serially during the spring and summer the month's pageant of wild flowers. In each month's issue will be pictured, classified and described the wild flowers then in bloom. The descriptions, with the aid of the photographs, will give every one an intimate acquaintanceship with the summer waifs of wood and field, and a pleasant, useful knowledge that will make their identification very easy whenever met with. The series will bring to all a keener appreciation of the beautiful flowers that grow and blossom in Nature's garden.